

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 20, 22, and 23 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating in the Advisory Action that claims 22 and 23 would be considered allowable if amended in the manner presented in the Reply filed November 19, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith amended claims 22 and 23 consistent with the November 19, 2004 Reply. Applicants submit that claims 22 and 23 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-5, 20, 22, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-5, 20, 22, and 23 have been amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 1 states that “previous stage unit circuit”, “following stage unit circuit”, and “final stage unit circuit” do not clearly indicate which part of the filter circuit they refer to. Claim 1 has been amended to recite explicit relationships relative to the “first stage unit circuit”, “at least one second stage unit circuit”, and “final stage unit circuit”. Applicants submit that the claim is definite.

The rejection of claim 2 states that the claim has the same problems as claim 1, and further states that the phrase “previous stage” is unclear. Similar to claim 1, claim 2 has also been amended to recite explicit relationships between unit circuits. Applicants submit that the claim is definite.

The rejections of claims 3, 4, and 5 state that they each have the same problem as claim 1. Claims 3-5 have been amended to recite explicit relationships between unit circuits. Applicants submit that the claims are definite.

The rejection of claim 20 states that the phrase “wherein at least one of the correlation ... a final stage” is unclear. Claim 20 has been amended to define “final stage” in the preamble. Applicants submit that the claim is definite.

Applicants submit that M.P.E.P. § 2173.02 applies under the present circumstances.

“The examiner's focus during examination of claims for compliance with the requirement for definiteness of **35 U.S.C. 112**, second paragraph, is whether the claim meets the threshold requirements of clarity and precision, not whether more suitable language or modes of expression are available. When the examiner is satisfied that patentable subject matter is disclosed, and it is apparent to the examiner that the claims are directed to such patentable subject matter, he or she should allow claims which define the patentable subject matter with a reasonable degree of particularity and distinctness. Some latitude in the manner of expression and the aptness of terms should be permitted even though the claim language is not as precise as the examiner might desire. Examiners are encouraged to suggest claim language to applicants to improve the clarity or precision of the language used, but should not reject claims or insist on their own preferences if other modes of expression selected by applicants satisfy the statutory requirement.

The essential inquiry pertaining to this requirement is whether the claims set out and circumscribe a particular subject matter with a reasonable degree of clarity and particularity. Definiteness of claim language must be analyzed, not in a vacuum, but in light of:

- (A) The content of the particular application disclosure;
- (B) The teachings of the prior art; and
- (C) The claim interpretation that would be given by one possessing the ordinary level of skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made. "

In the Advisory Action dated January 3, 2005, the Examiner expressed that the claims are confusing as to what is transmitted to which stage. Applicants submit that the claims are clear, as they clearly define the scope of the disclosed application that Applicants claim as their invention. For example, claim 1 clearly sets forth a plurality of unit circuits including a first stage unit circuit, at least one second stage unit circuit, and a final stage unit circuit connected in series and consecutively arranged. A reason for indicating a first stage unit circuit and a final stage unit circuit is that the first stage unit circuit has the special condition that previous stage values are default values. The final stage unit circuit produces the cumulative output for the series connected unit circuits. Other than these special conditions, the unit circuits are clearly indicated as being connected in series and consecutively arranged. Given this series connected arrangement, the claims clearly indicate that each stage transmits to a respective following stage a) an analog signal and b) a coefficient.

Furthermore, because of the claimed arrangement of series connected, consecutively arranged stages, the meaning of previous/preceding stage and

following stage would be understood for a given stage. Terms such as previous/preceding and following take on their dictionary definition in the context of the disclosed invention. Thus, Applicants submit that the claims are definite when considered in light of the present application disclosure.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an alternative definition of claimed terms based on the context of the respective claim that would render the terms indefinite.

CONCLUSION

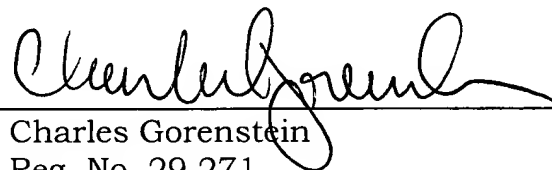
All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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